

with State agencies, usually emergency management or forestry, as well as the Incident Commander, in order to provide us with an accurate assessment.

(2) *Regional summary and recommendation.* Upon obtaining all necessary information on the fire or fire complex from the State and the Principal Advisor, the Regional Director will provide the Associate Director with a summary and recommendation to accompany the State's request. The summary and recommendation should include a discussion of the threat of a major disaster.

§ 204.24 Determination on request for a fire management assistance declaration.

The Associate Director will review all information submitted in the State's request along with the Principal Advisor's assessment and Regional summary and render a determination. The determination will be based on the conditions of the fire or fire complex existing at the time of the State's request. When possible, the Associate Director will evaluate the request and make a determination within several hours. Once the Associate Director makes a determination, the Associate Director will promptly notify the Regional Director. The Regional Director will then inform the State of the determination.

§ 204.25 FEMA-State agreement for fire management assistance grant program.

(a) After a State's request for a fire management assistance declaration has been approved, the Governor and Regional Director will enter into a standing FEMA-State Agreement (the Agreement) for the declared fire and for future declared fires in that calendar year. The State must have a signed and up-to-date FEMA-State Agreement before receiving Federal funding for fire management assistance grants. FEMA will provide no funding absent a signed and up-to-date Agreement. An Indian tribal government serving as Grantee, must sign a FEMA-Tribal Agreement, modeled upon the FEMA-State Agreement.

(b) The Agreement states the understandings, commitments, and conditions under which we will provide Federal assistance, including the cost share provision and articles of agreement necessary for the administration of grants approved under fire management assistance declarations. The Agreement must also identify the State legislative authority for fire-fighting, as well as the State's compliance with the laws, regulations, and other provisions applicable to the Fire Management Assistance Grant Program.

(c) For each subsequently declared fire within the calendar year, the parties must add a properly executed amendment, which defines the incident period and contains the official declaration number. Other amendments modifying the standing Agreement may be added throughout the year to reflect changes in the program or signatory parties.

§ 204.26 Appeal of fire management assistance declaration denial.

(a) *Submitting an appeal.* When we deny a State's request for a fire management assistance declaration, the Governor or GAR may appeal the decision in writing within 30 days after the date of the letter denying the request. The State should submit this one-time request for reconsideration in writing, with appropriate additional information, to the Associate Director through the Regional Director. The Associate Director will notify the State of his/her determination on the appeal, in writing, within 90 days of receipt of the appeal or the receipt of additional requested information.

(b) *Requesting a time-extension.* The Associate Director may extend the 30-day period provided that the Governor or the GAR submits a written request for such an extension within the 30-day period. The Associate Director will evaluate the need for an extension based on the reasons cited in the request and either approve or deny the request for an extension.